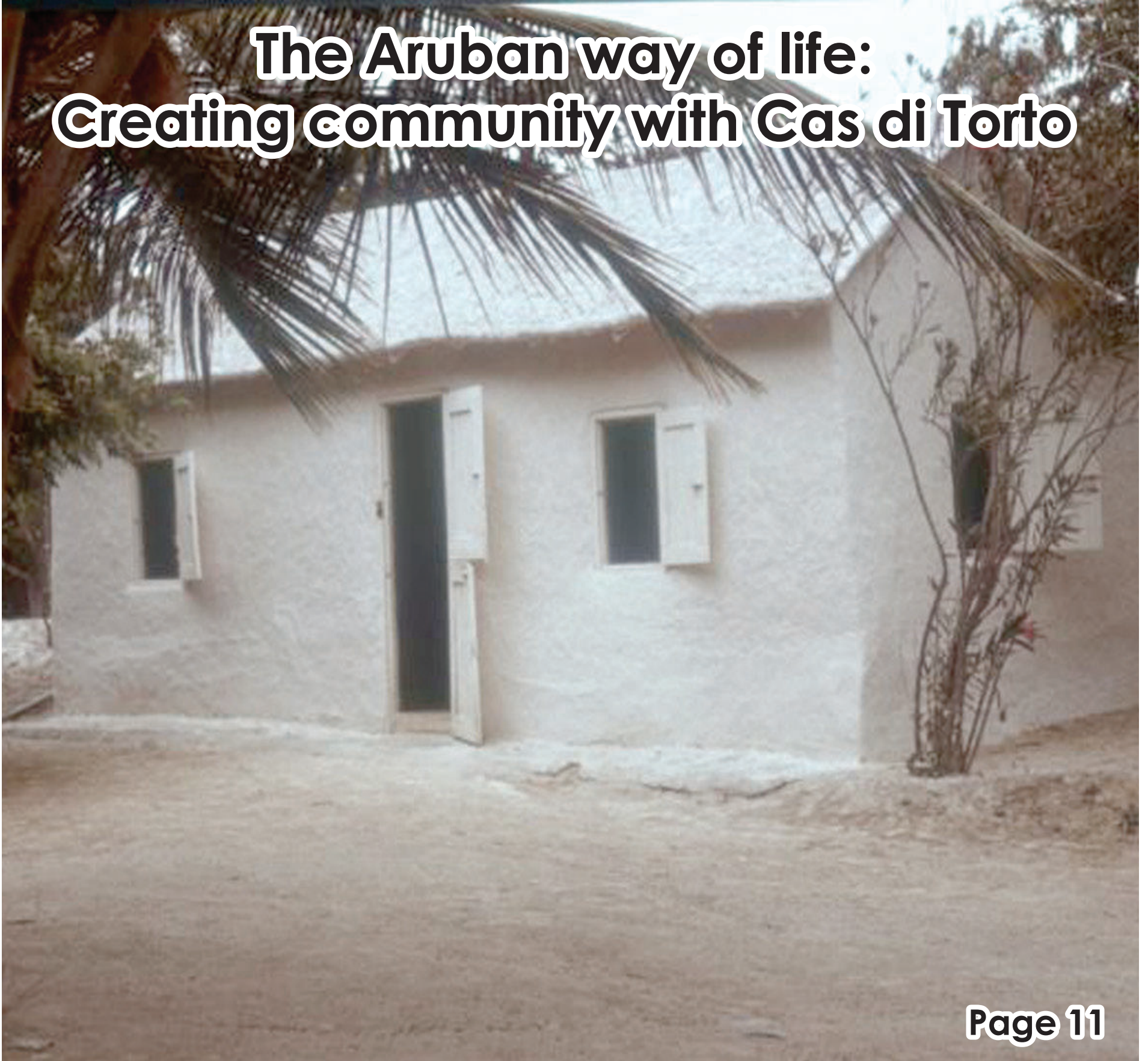




The Aruban way of life: Creating community with Cas di Torto



Page 11



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Trump administration moves to dissolve national climate research lab in Colorado



Associated Press

By **MATTHEW DALY** and **SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN**
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is dismantling the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Colorado, moving to dissolve a research lab that a top White House official described as “one of the largest sources of climate alarmism in the country.”

White House budget director Russ Vought criticized the lab in a social media post Tuesday night and said a comprehensive review of the lab is underway. “Vital activities such as weather research will be moved to another entity or location,” Vought said. The research lab, which houses the largest federal research program on cli-

mate change, supports research to predict, prepare for and respond to severe weather and other natural disasters. The research lab is managed by a nonprofit consortium of more than 130 colleges and universities on behalf of the National Science Foundation. A senior White House official cited two instances of the lab’s “woke direction” that wastes taxpayer funds on what the official called frivolous pursuits and ideologies. One funded an Indigenous and Earth Sciences center that aimed to “make the sciences more welcoming, inclusive, and justice-centered,” while another experiment traced air pollution to “demonize motor vehicles, oil and gas operations.” The official spoke on condition of anonymity to speak frankly about the administration’s actions. For climate scientists the lab “is quite literally our global mothership,” said Katharine Hayhoe, a climate scientist and Distinguished Professor at Texas Tech University. “NCAR supports the scientists who fly into hurricanes, the meteorologists who develop new radar technology, the physicists who envision and code new weather models, and yes the largest community climate model in the world. That too,” Hayhoe said in a social media post. “Dismantling NCAR is like taking a sledgehammer to the keystone holding up our scientific understanding of the planet,” she said. Following World War II, interest in meteorology, solar observations and atmospheric science increased, spurring the creation of NCAR. The focus initially centered on atmospheric chemistry and physical meteorology. NCAR’s budget more than doubled from the 1980s into the 1990s, driven by increased federal focus on climate change research. Colorado Gov. Jared Polis called the lab a global leader in earth systems scientific research. □

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4 Republicans defy Speaker Johnson to force House vote on extending ACA subsidies

By KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Four centrist Republicans broke with Speaker Mike Johnson on Wednesday and signed onto a Democratic-led petition that will force a House vote on extending for three years an enhanced pandemic-era subsidy that lowers health insurance costs for millions of Americans. The stunning move comes after House Republican leaders pushed ahead with a health care bill that does not address the soaring monthly premiums that millions of people will soon endure when the tax credits for those who buy insurance through the Affordable Care Act expire at year's end. The action sets the stage for a renewed intraparty clash over health care in January, something Republican leaders had been working to avoid, just weeks before another government funding deadline at the end of that month. The moderate Republicans were able to force the issue by signing a petition, led by Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York, to vote on a bill that would extend the subsidies for three years.

Republican Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick, Robert Bresnahan and Ryan Mackenzie, all from Pennsylvania, and Mike Lawler of New York signed on Wednesday morning, pushing it to the magic number of 218. A vote on the subsidy bill could come as soon as January under House rules. "Unfortunately, it is House leadership themselves that have forced this outcome," Fitzpatrick said in a statement.

Johnson told reporters Wednesday that "I have not lost control of the House" and he noted that Republicans have a razor-thin majority that allows a small number of members to employ procedures that would not usually be successful in getting around leadership.

"These are not normal times," said Johnson, R-La.



Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., meets with reporters as Republicans struggle with a plan to address growing health care costs, at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025. Associated Press

Origins of a Republican revolt

The revolt against GOP leadership came after days of talks centered on the health care subsidies. Johnson had discussed allowing more politically vulnerable GOP lawmakers a chance to vote on bills that would temporarily extend the subsidies while also adding changes such as income caps for beneficiaries. But after days of discussions, the leadership sided with the more conservative wing of the party's conference, which has assailed the subsidies as propping up a failed ACA program, which is widely known as "Obamacare."

House Republicans pushed ahead Wednesday a 100-plus-page health care package without the subsidies. Instead, the measure focuses on long-sought GOP proposals designed to expand insurance coverage options for small businesses and the self-employed.

Fitzpatrick and Lawler tried to add a temporary extension of the subsidies to the bill, but were denied.

"Our only request was a floor vote on this compromise, so that the American People's voice could be heard on this issue. That request was rejected. Then,

at the request of House leadership I, along with my colleagues, filed multiple amendments, and testified at length to those amendments," Fitzpatrick said. "House leadership then decided to reject every single one of these amendments." "As I've stated many times before, the only policy that is worse than a clean three-year extension without any reforms, is a policy of complete expiration without any bridge," Fitzpatrick said.

Lawler, in a social media post, similarly said that "the failure of leadership" to permit a vote had left him with "no choice" but to sign the petition.

Jeffries, for several weeks, had called on Republicans to sign his discharge petition. He particularly challenged Republicans in competitive congressional districts to join the effort if they really wanted to prevent premium increases for their constituents.

"Mike Johnson needs to bring the bill to the floor today," Jeffries said. "Our position from the very beginning was that we are standing on the right side of the American people who want to see the Affordable Care Act tax credits extended, and we're appreciative that we now have

the bipartisan coalition to get that done."

The GOP holds a 220-213 majority in the House, which means defections from just a sliver of the conference can upend leadership's plans. Johnson has been able to negotiate that challenge largely by making accommodations to the more conservative wing of his conference. This time, it was the moderates who revolted.

The defectors largely represent districts that Democrats have targeted in their bid to retake the majority, with Democrats promising to make health insurance costs a central issue in next year's midterms.

Lawmakers turn to discharge petitions to show support for an action and potentially force a vote on the House floor, but they are rarely successful. This year has proven an exception.

The vote requiring the Department of Justice to release the Jeffrey Epstein files occurred after Reps. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., and Thomas Massie, R-Ky., introduced a petition to force a vote on the Epstein Files Transparency Act.

The signature effort was backed by all House Democrats and four Republicans.

It was a long battle to get 218 signatures, but once the magic number was reached, lawmakers in both chambers voted overwhelmingly for the bill.

Path ahead is uncertain

Even if the Democrats' subsidy bill were to pass the House, which is far from assured, it would face an arduous climb in the Republican-led Senate.

Republicans last week voted down a three-year extension of the subsidies and proposed an alternative that also failed. But in an encouraging sign for Democrats, four Republican senators crossed party lines to support their proposal.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., argued against the Democratic extension as "an attempt to disguise the real impact of Obamacare's spiraling health care costs."

Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., said he viewed the House developments Wednesday as a positive for generating a compromise that both parties could support.

"If we're not talking, we're not making progress. This continues the discussion," Tillis said.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York said that the 218th signature for the Democrats' bill showed that the demand from the American people for an extension is undeniable, but "the damage has now been done, no matter what happens."

"Because at this point, Republicans have made it impossible to prevent many Americans from paying more on their monthly premiums on January 1st. And Republicans can't even say they tried to stop it," Schumer said. □



Trump's National Guard deployment in Washington can continue for now, an appeals court says

By GARY FIELDS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal appeals court on Wednesday ruled that the National Guard deployment in the nation's capital can continue for now, staying a lower-court ruling that had ordered an end to the troops' presence.

The three-judge panel for U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled that Donald Trump may prevail in his argument that the president "possesses a unique power" to mobilize the Guard in Washington, which is a federal district.

The ruling stops the implementation of U.S. District Court Judge Jia Cobb's Nov. 20 opinion and order, and reaffirms that residents and visitors to Washington will routinely see Guard members well into 2026.

Cobb had ruled that the deployment illegally intrudes on local officials' authority to direct law enforcement in the District of Columbia.

Wednesday's unanimous 32-page ruling went on to say that other factors also favored the Republican



National Guard patrol in the Lincoln Memorial, Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025, in Washington. The Washington Monument is seen in the background.

Associated Press

administration, including the "disruption to the lives of thousands of service members," as well as what it said was the president's interest "in the protection of federal governmental functions and property within the Nation's capital." The judges found that the district "has not identified any ongoing injury to its statutory interests."

The ruling acknowledged that the administration has a strong case for its appeal. The deployment began in August after Trump issued an executive order declaring a crime emergency in Washington. Within a month, more than 2,300 National Guard troops from eight states and the district were patrolling the city under the command of the

Army secretary. Trump also deployed hundreds of federal agents to assist.

The city's attorney general, Brian Schwalb, sued to challenge the Guard deployments. He asked that the White House be barred from deploying Guard troops without the mayor's consent while the lawsuit played out. Dozens of states took sides in

Schwalb's lawsuit, with their support falling along party lines.

A spokesperson with Schwalb's office said the stay was a "preliminary ruling that does not resolve the merits. We look forward to continuing our case in both the district and appellate courts."

In a posting on X, Attorney General Pam Bondi praised the ruling, saying, "Our federal surge in D.C. has saved countless lives, removed hundreds of illegal guns off the streets, and led to a dramatic drop in crime in our nation's capital city." She added the department would continue fighting in court to defend the president's agenda.

Cobb had found that while the president did have authority to protect federal functions and property, he could not unilaterally deploy the D.C. National Guard to help with crime control as he saw fit or call in troops from other states. She called for the troops to be sent home after her ruling but put her order on hold for 21 days to allow the appeal by the administration. □

New York governor says she has reached a deal to legalize medically assisted suicide

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE
and MICHAEL HILL
Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York is set to become the latest state to legalize medically assisted suicide for the terminally ill under a deal reached between the governor and state legislative leaders announced Wednesday.

In an op-ed in the Albany Times Union, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced she will sign the proposal after she made an agreement with lawmakers to include a series of "guardrails" in the measure.

Hochul, a Catholic, said she came to the decision after hearing from New Yorkers in the "throes of pain and suffering," as well as their

children, while also considering opposition from "individuals of many faiths who believe that deliberately shortening one's life vio-

lates the sanctity of life." "I was taught that God is merciful and compassionate, and so must we be," she wrote. "This includes

permitting a merciful option to those facing the unimaginable and searching for comfort in their final months in this life."

A dozen other states and the District of Columbia have laws to allow medically assisted suicide, according to advocates, including a law in Illinois signed last week that goes into effect next year.

New York's Medical Aid in Dying Act requires that a terminally ill person who is expected to die within six months make a written request for life-ending drugs. Two witnesses would have to sign the request to ensure that the patient is not being coerced. The request would then have to be approved by the per-

son's attending physician as well as a consulting physician.

The governor said the bill's sponsors and legislative leaders have agreed to add provisions to require confirmation from a medical doctor that the person "truly had less than six months to live," along with confirmation from a psychologist or psychiatrist that the patient is capable of making the decision and is not under duress. Hochul also said the bill will include a mandatory five-day waiting period as well as a written and recorded oral request to "confirm free will is present." Outpatient facilities associated with religious hospitals may elect not to offer the option. □



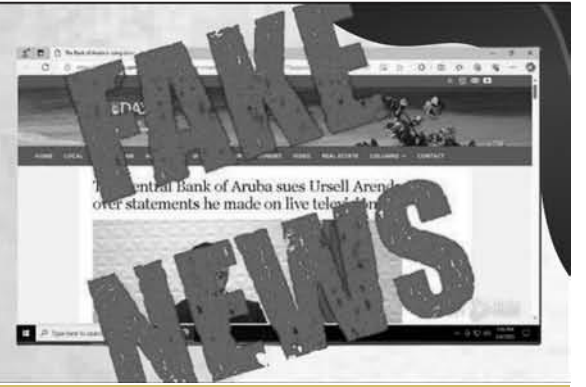
New York Gov. Kathy Hochul speaks during a House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform hearing, June 12, 2025, at the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

Associated Press

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South African authorities raid a U.S. refugee processing center and Washington protests

By MICHELLE GUMEDE and GERALD IMRAY
Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South African immigration authorities raided a United States refugee processing center in Johannesburg and seven Kenyans working there illegally were arrested and given deportation orders, South Africa's Home Affairs Ministry said Wednesday, as the U.S. called the action "unacceptable." Tuesday's raid occurred at a center that processes applications by white South Africans who have been given priority for refugee status in the U.S. by the Trump administration. It was bound to increase tensions between the countries, whose relations have cooled dramatically since President Donald Trump returned to office. The Trump administration's claim that members of South Africa's Afrikaner white minority group are

being persecuted by the Black-led government has been widely rejected, but it has been central to the deterioration of ties between the U.S. and Africa's most advanced economy. The Home Affairs Ministry said the Kenyans were in the country on tourist visas which did not allow them to work, adding that U.S. officials' work with them at the refugee processing center "raises serious questions about intent and diplomatic protocol." It was not immediately clear whether the U.S. had known about the Kenyans' status. The ministry said no U.S. officials were arrested in the raid and that the site was not a diplomatic one. It said South Africa's Foreign Ministry has started "formal diplomatic engagements with both the United States and Kenya to resolve this matter." U.S. State Department

spokesperson Tommy Pigott said "interfering in our refugee operations is unacceptable," adding that they were seeking "immediate clarification from the South African government and expect full cooperation and accountability." The U.S. Embassy in a statement last month said the U.S. government had contracted a Kenya-based company, RSC Africa, to process refugee applications by white South Africans. RSC Africa is operated by Church World Service, a U.S.-based non-governmental organization that offers refugee assistance and works with the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. The Home Affairs Ministry said the Kenyans were working at the U.S. refugee processing site "despite the fact that earlier visa applications for Kenyan nationals to perform this work had been lawfully declined." □



Refugees from South Africa, arrive Monday, May 12, 2025, at Dulles International Airport in Dulles, Va.

Associated Press

U.K. to rejoin EU's student exchange program in a step toward closer ties after Brexit



Dr. Peter Sotonyi, rector of the University of Veterinary Medicine in Budapest, Hungary, gives an anatomy lecture for first-year students, using chalk to mark the body of live horses, Monday, Sept 9, 2024.

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain will rejoin the European Union's flagship Erasmus student-exchange program, it was announced Wednesday, in a major step for efforts to reset the U.K.'s post-Brexit relations with the 27-nation bloc.

British university and college students and apprentices will be able to study or train in EU countries under the program without paying extra foreign-student fees from January 2027. In turn, students from EU countries will be able to study in Britain.

The agreement also covers opportunities to study or train abroad for school pupils, adult learners, educators and sports coaches.

Britain's EU Relations Minister Nick Thomas-Symonds said the agreement "is a huge win for our young people, breaking down barriers and widening horizons to ensure everyone, from every background, has the opportunity to study and train abroad."

The U.K. will pay about 570 million pounds (\$860 million) for the first year, with the cost for future years to be set later.

The almost four-decade-old program is one of the bloc's most popular achievements and has allowed millions of young Europeans to study in other countries. The program includes several non-EU countries, such as Iceland and Norway.

The U.K. voted in 2016 to leave the EU and left in 2020 with a bare-bones trade deal that ended the right of British citizens to live, study and work freely across the bloc. Then-Prime Minister Boris Johnson pulled Britain out of Erasmus, saying it was not good value for money. Prime Minister Keir Starmer's center-left Labour Party government pledged to repair ties with the EU strained by years of acrimony over Brexit. □

Spanish police evict hundreds of migrants from squat deemed unsafe

By EMILIO MORENATTI and JOSEPH WILSON

Associated Press

BADALONA, Spain (AP) —

Police in northeastern Spain carried out eviction orders Wednesday to clear an abandoned school building where around 400 migrants were living in a squat north of Barcelona.

Knowing that the eviction in the middle of winter was coming, most of the occupants had left to try to find other shelter before police in riot gear from Catalonia's regional police entered the school's premises early in the morning under court orders. Judicial authorities had ruled the building was unsafe.

While the eviction was completed without violence, there were moments of tension when people who were losing their homes had to walk past armored officers.

But officers of Spain's National Police detained 18 people on suspicions they were residing in the country without authorization, lawyer Marta Llonch told The Associated Press.

The squat was located in Badalona, a working class



Migrants confront police as they begin carrying out eviction orders at an abandoned school building where hundreds of mostly undocumented migrants had been living, in Badalona, near Barcelona, Spain, Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025.

city that borders Barcelona. Many sub-Saharan migrants, mostly from Senegal and Gambia, had moved into the empty school building since it was left abandoned in 2023.

"Putting 400 people onto the street in winter just before Christmas, you have to have a hard heart to do that," said Younous Drame, a 50-year-old man from Senegal who was among

those forced to leave.

A judicial order

The judicial order obliged the Badalona town hall to provide the evicted people with access to social services, but it did not oblige local authorities to find housing for all the squatters.

Llonch, who represents the squatters, said that many people would surely end up without shelter in the cold.

Associated Press

"Many people are going to sleep on the street tonight," Llonch told The Associated Press. "Just because you evict these people it doesn't mean they disappear."

If you don't give them an alternative place to live they will now be on the street, which will be a problem for them and the city." Many of the squatters lived from selling scrap metal

collected from the streets. Others had residency and work permits but were forced to live there because they couldn't afford housing during a cost-of-living crunch that is making it difficult even for working Spaniards to buy or rent homes. That housing crisis has led to widespread social angst and public protests.

On leaving the school, people loaded their belongings onto carts, some used as trailers led by bicycles, to haul them away.

The Badalona town hall will offer temporary housing to some 30 people, according to El País newspaper. Another 60 people are being attended to by Catalonia's regional social services, which could end up offering them temporary housing as well, regional officials told the AP.

Migration at the center of politics

The conservative mayor of Badalona, Xavier García Albiol, asked the court to evict the people from the old public school.

His Badalona town hall had argued that the squat was a public safety hazard. □

Italy may not support EU-Mercosur free trade deal without changes

By SAM McNEIL

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Italy signaled on Wednesday that it might not support a massive transatlantic free trade deal between the European Union and South American countries, casting further doubt on the agreement as European leaders gather for a summit in Brussels and farmers enraged by the trade pact descend on the capital.

Premier Giorgia Meloni told Italian parliament on Wednesday that signing the deal between the EU and the five active Mercosur countries Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Bolivia would depend on key changes to the accord. Meloni said that signing the agreement in the

coming days "would be premature." She called for a package of measures to protect Italian farmers before she can approve the deal.

"This doesn't mean that Italy intends to block or oppose (the deal), but that it intends to approve the agreement only when it includes adequate reciprocal guarantees for our agricultural sector." European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is determined to sign the agreement, but needs the backing of at least two-thirds of EU nations. Italy's opposition increases the possibility of France finding enough allies to veto her signature. Worried by a surging far right that rallies support by criticizing

the deal, the French have demanded safeguards to monitor and stop large economic disruption in the EU, increased regulations in the Mercosur nations like pesticide restrictions, and more inspections of imports at EU ports. Despite the looming delay, which analysts say could lead to a sinking of the pact, von der Leyen and European Council President António Costa are still scheduled to sign the deal in Brazil on Saturday. The trade deal has been under negotiation for 25 years. If ratified, it would cover a market of 780 million people and a quarter of the globe's gross domestic product.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz told lawmakers in Berlin that he was still ad-



Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni arrives at the Chancellery in Berlin, Germany, Monday, Dec. 15, 2025.

Associated Press

vocating for von der Leyen and Costa to sign the deal. "The European Union's ability to act can also be measured by whether, after 26 years of negotiations, we are finally in a position to bring this trade agreement to a conclusion, and so also get the negotiated trade agreements with Mexico

and Indonesia on the road quickly," he said.

He said that those "moaning about details of big trade agreements that we as Europeans want to conclude with major economic areas in the world ... still haven't really understood the priorities we must now set." □

Don Esteban Gourmet Debuts Its First Boutique Location at Radisson Blu Aruba

A New Culinary Experience Showcasing Authentic Spanish Artisanship



Palm Beach – Don Esteban Gourmet proudly announces the debut of its first boutique dining concept at Radisson Blu Aruba, introducing a curated Spanish tapas offering crafted with premium ingredients, artisanal techniques, and deep cultural heritage. This opening marks the brand's first flagship location.

Created by Stephan Camguilhem, a French-Spanish entrepreneur and founder of Don Esteban Foods, known for introducing premium Spanish products across the region, the concept reflects his vision for a boutique culinary brand rooted in authenticity and craftsmanship. At its Aruba home, Don Esteban Gourmet presents a menu crafted by Executive Chef Jorge Méndez and his team, drawing on authen-

tic Spanish flavors and traditional culinary techniques. Guests can enjoy curated tapas and small plates, artisanal charcuterie, premium cheeses, and bold, vibrant dishes designed to be shared. The crown jewel of Don Esteban Gourmet is the legendary Jamón Ibérico de Bellota, carved with artisanal precision. This celebrated delicacy captures the essence of



Spanish culinary mastery and is made to be shared, enjoyed, and savored. The venue's intimate atmosphere blends warmth and refinement, creating a welcoming setting ideal for relaxed afternoon tastings or cozy evening gatherings. Each visit invites guests to explore a mix of vibrant flavors, selected wines, and the authentic products that define the Don Esteban brand.

"We have built Radisson Blu Aruba by doing things differently and staying true to a boutique, personal style of hospitality, choosing intimate and meaningful experiences over large, commercial concepts. Don Esteban Gourmet fits seamlessly into that approach. It offers an intimate and relaxed culinary space that we are excited to share not only with our guests, but with our local community as well," said Shareska Gutierrez, Director of Commercial Strategy.

Don Esteban Gourmet is located at the front of Radisson Blu Aruba, on the Lobby Level of the Clubhouse Building. □

Open daily from 12 PM to 8 PM.
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The Lionfish and its threat to our marine wild life

(Oranjestad)—Despite its colorful and striking appearance, the lionfish has become a Caribbean-wide problem for Atlantic sea life. The Aruban marine wild life is also affected by this beautiful dilemma, as it is foreign to our waters and has become a danger to our local fish and reefs.

Originating from the Indo-Pacific Ocean, the lionfish is a relatively small fish. It has no teeth, but it does protect itself against predators using its sharp, colorful spikes. It is said that the sting of a lionfish can be up to 100 times more painful than that of a bee's sting.

Its natural predators in the Indo-Pacific are sharks and barracudas, but in the Caribbean Sea, local fish do not recognize the lionfish as part of their diet. In other words, the lionfish has no predators in the Caribbean Sea. And this becomes a major problem for our local marine life;



if there are no predators to stimulate population control of lionfish, these fish can continue to reproduce and expand to other parts of the Atlantic, become more invasive and dangerous for other types of fish.

For Aruba, the lionfish is a problem especially for our local coral reefs. According to Patrick van Brakel, lion-

fish expert and hunter from the Hunting Lionfish Aruba foundation, every reef has a "cleaning station"—tiny fish that eat algae and other types of waste on a reef, thus maintaining the reef's health and providing food to the fish population in the area. However, as the lionfish feeds off of these tiny fish, it becomes harder for the coral reef to maintain

its health.

Patrick also shares the origins of lionfish in the Caribbean Sea. It is theorized that the introduction of these fish in the Atlantic happened in Florida, where people would buy lionfish from across the world to keep in their aquariums. However, lionfish grow, and as these buyers realized that the fish were too much

upkeep, they were let out into the ocean to roam free. From continental USA, the lionfish travelled to and invaded the entire Caribbean area, from Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao up to New York. In Aruba, lionfish were discovered in 2009.

Controlling the lionfish population is challenge, as each female fish can lay up to 40,000 eggs a day. Luckily, we have people like van Brakel who dedicate their lives hunting and capturing these invasive species, using them for consumption and jewelry making.

They are caught with a hand spear, an object resembling a garbage picker with 4 sharp prongs. These spears are used like a sling shot to catch lionfish from a distance. These fish are then put into a collecting tube and taken out of the water. This way, he does his part in protecting the local wild life. □

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Whether you're strolling through Palm Beach after a morning at the beach or looking for a special dinner spot, L'Avenue welcomes you with an inviting terrace, stylish décor, and the comforting aroma of Belgian classics crafted to perfection. It's a place where locals, travelers, food lovers, and beer connoisseurs come together — united by a love for great food, heartfelt service, and that unmistakable European flair.

At L'Avenue, every dish tells a story — one of tradition, seasonality, and bold yet balanced flavors. From crispy croquettes and perfectly poured Belgian beers



to steaming pots of fresh mussels flown in weekly, the menu offers something both comforting and surprising. Lunch includes a variety of sandwiches—with a healthy selection of bread options—if you're going for a light meal, but just like their dinner selection, also includes steak, chicken, fish, and even rabbit if you're craving a bit more of L'Avenue's exquisite menu. And let's not forget their wide selection of Belgian beer and European wine to complete the tasty experience! But that's not all! L'Avenue is offering their guests their Early Bird Special, available every day from 4pm to 7pm. Enjoy this affordable and delectable 3-course meal special at a comfortable price of \$29.50 per guest, which includes a selection of their fine in-house wine.

More Than a Bistro A Culinary Destination

L'Avenue is more than just a place to eat — it's a culinary destination. A thoughtfully curated menu, an extensive selec-

tion of premium Belgian beers, and an atmosphere that balances European elegance with island ease make it one of the most talked-about dining spots in Aruba.

Whether you're looking for a casual lunch, a romantic dinner, or a celebratory evening with friends, L'Avenue delivers a dining experience that's as memorable as it is delicious.

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Aruba to me is “Paradise on earth”



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Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubato-day.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Teresa Anastasopoulos. She wrote to us saying: “Aruba to me is Paradise on earth...most connected you will feel to the land, air and ocean. 30 years later...it is my second home.”

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! ☐

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Rock stacking and its harmful effects

(Oranjestad)—The organization Aruba Birdlife Conservation has in the past raised concerns about the phenomenon of “rock stacking” in the area of Baby Beach and warned about the dangers it poses, especially for children.

As known, “rock stacking” is not illegal in Aruba, but its impact on nature is harmful

as the stones form part of the natural habitat of small animal species living in Aruba's wilderness. Experts warn that “rock stacking” could even lead certain species to extinction.

In Aruba, much of the “rock stacking” also occurs near Arikok National Park. Although this activity is not illegal in Aruba, it may be

time for park authorities to impose stricter regulations on this activity.

Tourists often believe that the meaning behind this activity is making a wish, but they do not realize its negative impact.

Aruba Birdlife Conservation's post not only raises alarms about the activity but also now that this phe-



nomenon has reached up to 1.7 meters high, which can be very dangerous, especially for children. □

Aruban snacks and where to find them



ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or per-

haps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a “kroket,” which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the “bitterbal”.

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find them at local bakeries all over the island. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing “batido”? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batidos along the flea market downtown.

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

- Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
- Along the main road next to the airport field.
- At the California Light House.
- At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert “cocada” or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them! □

Photo credit: wheninaruba.com



Basic driving rules on Aruba: Traffic signs



(Oranjestad)—In Yesterday's issue, we've provided some basic rules when driving on the four-lane highways and roundabouts on the island. Today, we want to offer you more tips and tricks when it comes to driving on the roads and highways of Aruba.

Speed limit in certain areas

As mentioned in yesterday's issue, the legal minimum and maximum speed limit on the island is 50 and 80 km/h respectively. However, there are some areas where it is mandated to drive up to a certain speed. This is always indicated by a circular traffic sign with red border and the number 50 on it. Signs like these are always paired by a similar sign with the number crossed out further down the road. This means that the mandate for this speed is now over; you may increase your velocity. Red borders on traffic sign—whether it's a circle or triangle—usually signal a warning, prohibition or preference.

Besides the "50" sign, you may also encounter a traffic sign that says "bebouwde kom". These can be found in San Nicolas and Oranjestad. Bebouwde kom signs are rectangular and blue, and essentially tell you that you are in a heavily inhabited area. The maximum speed limit in a bebouwde kom is 50 km/h. Just like the previous pair, bebouwde kom signs are also paired with a similar sign crossed out. Priority signs

On the main roads of Aruba (not the highways), you may see a yellow, squared sign with a white border. This sign tells you that on this road, you have priority and all other traffic should yield to you. This sign can be seen in Savaneta for example. So, if you are driving on the main road in Savaneta going to San Nicolas, you are driving on a single long road, and other cars that want to get on this main road or cross it, either from an intersection or from a dirt road, must all wait until traffic on the main road is clear. In other words, you do not have to stop for them. This sign too has a counter part that indicates that your priority is over.

Another priority sign you may encounter is a triangle sign with a red border and something that looks like a cross. You'll see this sign in an intersection. The general rule of thumb for crossing an intersection that do not contain traffic lights, roundabouts, sign or arrows on the road, is to always yield for traffic on your right. However, if you encounter this sign on your side of the intersection, you have priority over the

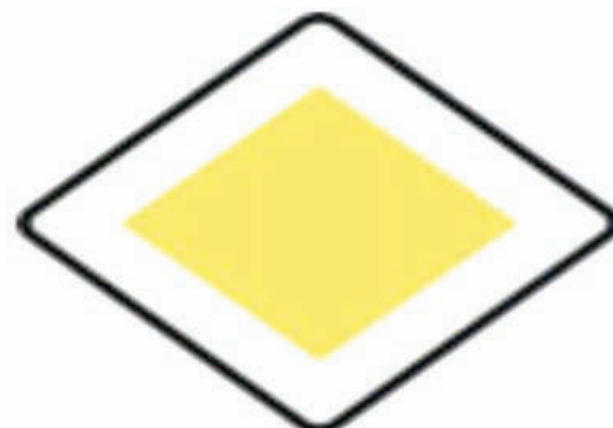


other cars, even the one on your right.

However, be careful not to confuse this sign with a similar up-side down triangle, also found on intersections. This sign is a prohibition sign, telling you that you have to stop and give other cars priority. Of course you also have a "stop" sign that mean the same thing. The stop sign is generally used for tricky intersections with minimal view of opposite incoming traffic.

These are some of the basic rules that you would have to know if you decide to drive on the island. These are of course other traffic signs, and we recommend you visit aruba-travelguide.com for an extensive overview of all traffic signs used on Aruba.□

Picture credits: aruba-travelguide.com





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Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names; Ayo & Alto Vista

(Oranjestad)—Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.

With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and meaning.

Ayo

Ajo, or Ayo, is a word with Arawak-Indian origin. A (or Ha) is an Indo-Antillean generalizing word. If you were to change a part of the word "Ayo", namely 'Yo', to 'Yu' and make 'Ayu', it would mean "white."

However, as we now know, the name of the neighborhood is 'Ayo'. The word 'Yo' stands for Yocahu, which is



another word for 'creator' in Arawak/Taino and in the Papiamentu spoken today, 'Ayo' means 'bye'.

At Ayo, you can find some

of the most well known rock formations. These formations became a well loved and visited attraction at Aruba that is held in high regards by both tourists



and locals alike.

If you'd like to know more about the rock formations at Ayo, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all about its location and history.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; A.

Alto Vista

This word combination can be roughly translated to a 'high point of view' and the neighborhood received this name from the Hill.

In the surrounding areas,

Domingo Antonia Silvestre built his by his own means the very first chapel or church of Aruba. The walls of this church were made with rocks but the roof was made of dry corn stalks. The church was inaugurated by father Pablo Algemesi.

If you'd like to know more about the Alto Vista Church's beautiful history, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all you need to know about it for when you visit it.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; AV. □

The Aruban way of life: Creating community with Cas di Torto

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban people understand that a happy life is spent in great ambience with your loved ones. Passed down from one generation to the other, building community has been a key aspect in forging our traditions and customs. The Cas di Torto (mud house) played a big role in cultivating community, bridging families together and forming close bonds with your neighbors—something we highly value today.

Cas di Torto: History and construction



The origin of the Cas di Torto is said to date back to the early 19th century in the Paraguana Peninsula in Venezuela. Refugees who sought sanctuary on Aruba introduced this building method to the island.

The uprights of the walls were made with sturdy and straight wayaca or kwihi wood, or from thin mangrove struts. Then, the wattle walls were weaved in using branches and twigs from the warero and sisal plant, daubed with a mixture of grass and mud. Finally, the

walls got a coat of white plaster to seal everything in.

For roofing, corn stalks, palm fronds and straws were used, allowing air to flow freely through the house. This method of roofing was known throughout the ABC islands (Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire), but the use of cornstalks in Aruba eventually got replaced with use of mud and white plaster for the roofs. The white plaster all around made the houses look like cake, hence the name "Torto" (Spanish for "cake").

Building community

Building Torto houses was often a community effort. Young couples who were about to get married had to have their house built before they could tie the knot and start their own family. This is where the help of the community comes into play.

Neighbors, extended family and friends would all help in the construction of a Torto



House. And everyone had a role: The men oversaw the building of the house, and the women were tasked with collecting wood and straws, cooking and taking care of the little ones.

The couple's family were primarily responsible for feeding everyone who helped build the house. Before construction, someone usually had the task to prepare the meal; going fishing or slaughter farm animals like goats, chicken or sheep. Even the older kids had their tasks; the older children of the family usually helped with collecting water and mixing the mud.

The average duration of

constructing a Cas di Torto was 4 months.

At the end of a long day of work, everyone would gather around and enjoy a feast of hearty food. This type of help from friends and family became a tradition and was called "paga lomba": You help me today; I'll help you tomorrow.

Nowadays, traditional Cas di Torto are rare, especially those that are still inhabited. Houses that do exist probably date back more than a century. □

Picture credits: Aruba National Library (BNA) and the Monumentbureau archive on Coleccion.aw

CROSSWORD

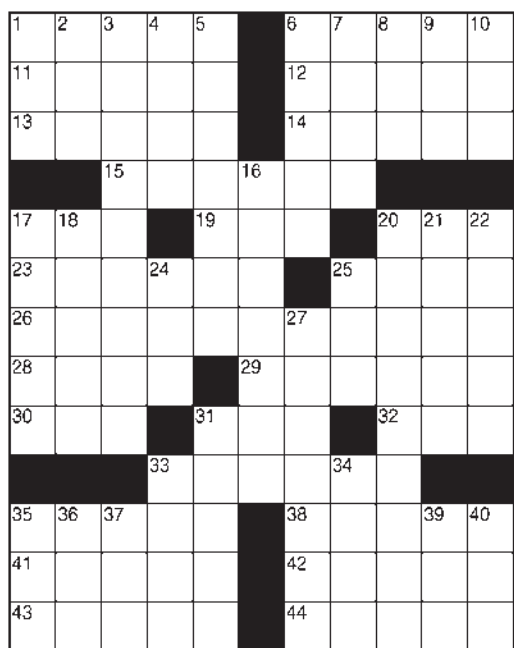
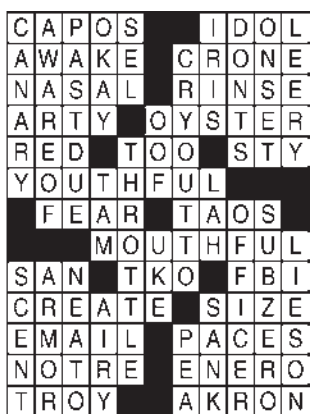
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Diamond corners
6 Sleepy mammal
11 Bert's pal
12 "Beetle-juice" girl
13 Squirrel's find
14 Rival
15 Setting of Thomas Hardy novels
17 Back muscle
19 Caribou's kin
20 Weed whacker
23 Designer Pucci
25 Spigots
26 Rangers' worries
28 Grove growth
29 Frozen plain
30 "For sure!"
31 Director Anderson
32 Method
33 Famed Florentine family
35 Eggs purchase
38 Tadpole, e.g.
41 In the future
42 Supine protest
43 Boxer Liston

DOWN

- 1 Arthur of TV
2 Compass trace
3 Some are studded
4 Cork's country
5 Dojo VIPs
6 Glossy
7 Bobcat's kin
8 Lyric poem
9 Dickens boy
10 Cow chow
16 Like some spoons
17 Southpaw
18 Love, in Livorno
20 Makes automatic, as a behavior
21 Sung drama
22 School paper
24 "Crooklyn" director
25 Badge metal
27 Edible spirals
31 Friend of Peter
33 Cruel
34 Early farmer
35 German article
36 Cry of surprise
37 Meditative school
39 Contend
40 Industrious one



12-28

A XYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-28 CRYPTOQUOTE

FCJKN NCOQ SUMDJ S NMZJP;
ELW NLZGXKO'M YDZYXD UDDX
SN UJDD MZ KDXCQLM CO
ELSMHDHJ NGOXCQLM JDPSCON

MZ MLDP? — JZND TDOODKW

Cryptoquote: DON'T BE AFRAID TO START OVER AGAIN. THIS TIME, YOU'RE NOT STARTING FROM SCRATCH; YOU'RE STARTING FROM EXPERIENCE. — UNKNOWN

Cruise ship Schedule: Dec. 19 - 24 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
FRI	19	CORAL PRINCESS	07.00	16.00	B	1
		MS RENAISSANCE	09.00	18.00	C	1
		WIND SPIRIT	12.01	****	G	1
SAT	20	ZUIDERDAM	07.00	16.00	B	1
		AIDAPERLA	09.00	22.00	C	1
		WIND SPIRIT - Dept.	****	19.00	G	
SUN	21	SILVER SHADOW	13.00	****	C	1
		FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
MON	22	SILVER SHADOW - Dept.	****	18.00	C	
TUE	23	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	B	1
		SEVEN SEAS MARINER	10.00	22.00	C	1
		NORWEGIAN SKY	13.30	20.00	I	1
WED	24	BRITANNIA	07.00	18.00	B	1
		ROTTERDAM	08.00	17.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
		OCEANIA ALLURA	10.00	23.00	I	1

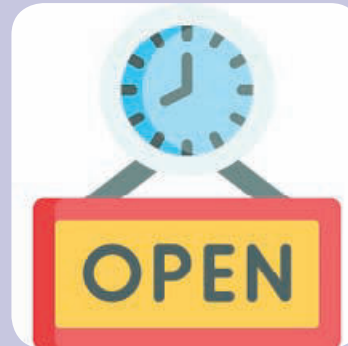
Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

5			8		9		6	2
			6				4	
6					7	5	8	3
			9			2	5	8
	8	9				4		
				2			9	
4						6	1	
		5		9	3		2	
	2				6		3	

Difficulty: ★★★

12/18

Answer to previous puzzle

4	9	5	6	7	1	2	3	8
6	3	7	8	2	5	9	4	1
8	2	1	4	9	3	7	5	6
9	8	6	2	3	7	4	1	5
5	7	4	1	8	6	3	2	9
2	1	3	5	4	9	6	8	7
3	6	8	9	5	4	1	7	2
1	4	2	7	6	8	5	9	3
7	5	9	3	1	2	8	6	4

Difficulty: ★★★

12/17

Teen drug use remains low, but survey finds small rise in heroin and cocaine use



Students walk the halls at a high school in Philadelphia on Aug. 29, 2013.

Associated Press

By **MIKE STOBBE**
AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Teen use of alcohol, nicotine and marijuana remains at record lows, according to national survey results released Wednesday.

They consume a lot of energy drinks, though. And there are slight, but concerning, increases in heroin and cocaine use.

But overall, the findings indicate teens are drinking, smoking and using substances at much lower rates than in the past. Two-thirds of 12th graders this year said they hadn't used alcohol, marijuana, cigarettes or electronic cigarettes in the previous 30 days. Thirty years ago before the advent of e-cigarettes the figure was closer to about one-third.

Among 10th graders, 82% said they hadn't used any of those substances recently. Among eighth graders, 91% didn't use any of them. Both are records for those ages in the annual survey.

The findings also seem to echo other surveys that show continued declines in teen sexual activity, which experts say is at least partly due to teens connecting through smartphones and social media instead of in person.

"Online connections don't create the same opportunities for experimenting with sex, alcohol or marijuana as unsupervised time face-to-face," said Laura Lindberg, a Rutgers University professor who researches adolescent sexual behavior.

The new results come from the federally funded Monitoring the Future survey, run by the University of Michigan. The annual survey has been operating since 1975 and has long been considered a top source of national data on teen substance abuse.

This year's findings are based on responses from about 24,000 students in grades 8, 10 and 12 in schools across the country. It was conducted from February to June this year.

Teen drug use has been gradually declining for decades, and fell dramatically at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, when students across the country were told not to go to schools and to avoid parties or other gatherings.

Experts expected at least a bit of a rebound as pandemic restrictions eased, but that hasn't happened.

The 2025 results show no increases in teens' use of alcohol, marijuana, cigarettes or nicotine vapes in any of the three grade levels. In 2024, researchers had noted an uptick in the use of nicotine pouches, but that too held steady this year, the survey found. □

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San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

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San Nicolas:
Centro Medico:Tel.584 5794

OTHER

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Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
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EMERGENCY

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Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

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Alcoholics Anonymous
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Narcotics Anonymous
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Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
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What Americans think about giving cash as holiday gifts, according to a new AP-NORC poll

By **LEANNE ITALIE** and **AMELIA THOMSON-DEVEAUX**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Welcome to exhausted America 2025: Most adults are more than a little fine with doling out cash as gifts, and many plan to be asleep before midnight on New Year's Eve, according to a new AP-NORC poll.

About 6 in 10 Americans say cash or gift cards are "very" acceptable as holiday presents, but they're much less likely to say that about a gift that was purchased secondhand or regifted, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

"Cash is OK for the grandkids I guess," said Nancy Wyant, 73, in rural central Iowa. "But I'm a gift giver." Come New Year's Eve, she'll be fast asleep before 2026 rolls around. "At our age, we don't do anything," the retired bus driver said with a laugh of herself and her



(Associated Press Illustration / Peter Hamlin)

live-in partner. "He's set in his ways."

They'll be joined by the 44% of Americans who say they won't stay up to greet 2026, according to the poll. About half of U.S. adults age 45 or older won't make it to midnight, compared with around one-third of adults under age 45.

Consider 23-year-old Otis Phillips in Seattle, an outlier for his age. He, too, will turn in early.

"It's one of the holidays that doesn't really feel special to me," said the master's student.

Most say cash makes an acceptable holiday gift

Cash is a safer gift for younger adults. The poll

found about two-thirds of Americans under 45 say cash is a "very" acceptable holiday gift, compared with 55% of adults age 45 or older.

"Everything's too expensive nowadays. And I don't want to go buy a gift for somebody and then it turns out they don't like it. So cash," said Gabriel Antonucci, 26, a ski resort cook in Alaska, about an hour outside of Anchorage.

Most people at least grudgingly accept various gift types, with about 9 in 10 saying cash or gift cards are at least "somewhat" acceptable and about 6 in 10 saying the same for secondhand gifts and re-

gifted items.

Teresa Pedroza, a 55-year-old mom of two adult sons in central Florida, is mostly not on board.

"I don't like it when kids say they want cash, or I should get teenagers gift cards," she said.

"It kind of takes some of the charm away from gift giving." But she acknowledged reaching for cards a time or two out of convenience.

About three-quarters of adults under age 45 say secondhand gifts are at least "somewhat" acceptable, compared with about 6 in 10 adults age 45 or older. About 4 in 10 adults age 45 or older say secondhand gifts are "somewhat" or "very" unacceptable.

Many keep holiday decor up beyond the new year

It's not just your pesky neighbors who leave their holiday decorations up into January. About one-third of U.S. adults say they'll leave them up after New Year's Day.

It's more common for people to leave their decorations up after the holiday season than to put them up early, according to the poll.

About 2 in 10 Americans say they put up holiday decorations before Thanksgiving.

"I just had my husband

bring down the bins. If we weren't expecting company, I wouldn't even bother to decorate, honestly. I'm tired of doing that," said Pedroza, the Florida mom of two.

Many will celebrate Christmas Day with sports

About one-quarter of U.S. adults say they're planning to watch sports on Christmas Day, while only 5% will head for a movie theater.

Men are much likelier than women to say they'll watch sports on Christmas, and older Americans are much more likely than younger Americans to tune in. About 2 in 10 adults under age 45 say they plan to watch sports on Christmas, compared with about 3 in 10 adults age 45 or older.

Phillips does plan to break out his red sweater with the green Christmas tree that one of his grandmothers knitted for him a couple of years ago.

"She made all kinds of things for me growing up," he said. "This is by far my favorite." Phillips has it in rotation for his part-time job as a grocery checkout clerk. He's the outlier once again. Women are much likelier than men to say they'll wear a holiday sweater or accessories.

Gifts for pets and Elf on the Shelf

About 3 in 10 U.S. adults say they will give a gift to their pet this year.

In Iowa, Wyant's nearly 3-year-old boxer-Great Dane mix named Indy is among them.

"She's a very spoiled dog," Wyant said. "She's got too many toys, so she's getting treats this year. She loves her treats."

And the red felt elf that parents move around the house every night as a Santa spy to see which kids have been naughty or nice? Only about 1 in 10 U.S. adults say they'll do Elf on the Shelf.

"Noooo," Pedroza said when asked if she'd ever done the elf for her kids. "My younger son was very well-behaved.

I didn't have to use any kind of tactics." □



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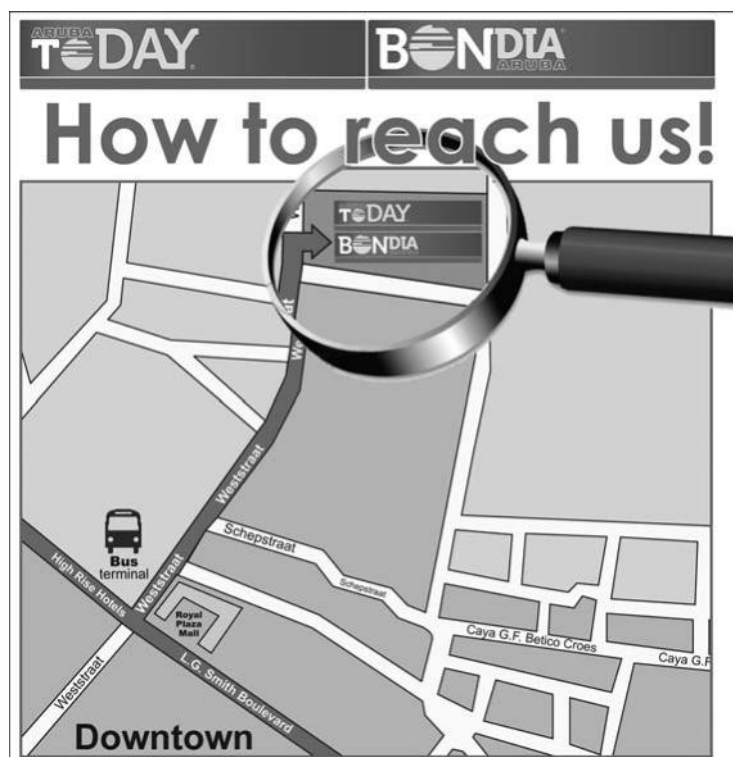
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NFL playoffs will miss Mahomes, Brady and Manning for the first time since the 1998 season



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) gets rid of the ball during the second half of an NFL football game against the Los Angeles Chargers Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025, in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

By JOSH DUBOW
AP Pro Football Writer

John Elway and Dan Marino were still starting quarterbacks, Tom Brady was a little-known college player at Michigan and at least six starting quarterbacks

for potential 2025 playoffs teams weren't even alive the last time the NFL had a postseason like this. With Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs officially eliminated from playoff contention, the upcoming

playoffs will be the first since the 1998 season that don't feature at least one of Mahomes, Brady or Peyton Manning at quarterback. Those three prolific passers have defined the past quarter-century of NFL

football, especially when it comes to the postseason. Since Manning made his playoff debut in his second season in 1999, at least one of those quarterbacks has been on center stage almost every January.

In the past 26 seasons, that trio combined for 42 playoff berths, 96 postseason starts, 66 playoff wins and 12 Super Bowl titles, with Brady winning seven, Mahomes three and Manning two. At least one of the three made it to the conference championship weekend in 20 of the 26 postseasons including either Brady or Mahomes in the last 15 with 18 Super Bowls featuring at least one, including when Brady beat Mahomes in Super Bowl 55 following the 2020 season.

Brady and Mahomes stand on top of the leaderboard when it comes to several postseason quarterback stats, including wins (Brady 35, Mahomes 17) and TD passes (Brady 88, Mahomes 46).

The absence of Mahomes

and the Chiefs could open the door for someone like Josh Allen or Lamar Jackson to make their first Super Bowl trip or even give an opportunity to a newer generation that features six quarterbacks whose teams are currently in playoff position and weren't born during the 1998 playoffs: Drake Maye, C.J. Stroud, Trevor Lawrence, Bo Nix, Caleb Williams and Brock Purdy. Carolina's Bryce Young could be a seventh if the Panthers surpass Tampa Bay in the NFC South race. The quarterbacks from that 1998 postseason featured five future Hall of Famers in Elway, Marino, Steve Young, Troy Aikman and Brett Favre; other longtime quarterbacks like Vinny Testaverde, Mark Brunell and Randall Cunningham; as well as Chris Chandler, Jake Plummer, Doug Flutie and Scott Zolak.

Elway finished that postseason run by winning his second straight Super Bowl for Denver over Chandler and the Atlanta Falcons. □

Terence Crawford, boxing's top pound-for-pound fighter, retires on top with 42-0 record

By The Associated Press

Terence Crawford, who claimed the title of best pound-for-pound boxer with a convincing victory over Canelo Alvarez in September, announced his retirement on Tuesday.

The 38-year-old Crawford is the only male boxer to capture three unified division titles, which he accomplished with that unanimous decision over Alvarez before 70,482 fans at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas.

That gave Crawford the super middleweight championship and a 42-0 record with 31 knockouts. His final 20 bouts came with a belt on the line.

"Every fighter knows this moment would come," Crawford said in a 5 1/2-minute

video detailing his decision. "You just never know when."

Crawford turned pro in 2008 and won titles in four weight classes — lightweight, super lightweight, welterweight and super welterweight before moving up two more weight divisions for the bout against Alvarez.

Crawford took pride in representing Omaha, Nebraska, the city where he grew up and continued to live.

He probably could have continued to sign up for other fights, and the win over Alvarez showed Crawford still had plenty left in him. But rather than accept another massive payday, Crawford decided to move on. "This sport gave me everything," Crawford said. □



Boxer Terence Crawford attends the NFL football game between the Las Vegas Raiders and the Los Angeles Chargers, Monday, Sept. 15, 2025, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

Detroit Tigers, closer Kenley Jansen finalize \$11 million, 1-year contract with 2026 club option

By **LARRY LAGE**
AP Sports Writer

DETROIT (AP) — The Detroit Tigers have added one of baseball's most accomplished closers.

Kenley Jansen and the Tigers finalized an \$11 million, one-year contract on Wednesday that includes a club option for another season.

"He's one of the best to ever do it," said Tigers general manager Scott Harris, who previously worked in the San Francisco Giants' front office. "I've admired him from afar and up close in the NL West."

The right-hander, fourth on the career list with 476 saves, gets a \$9 million salary next season and the



Los Angeles Angels relief pitcher Kenley Jansen smiles after striking out Houston Astros' Mauricio Dubon for the final out of the ninth inning and earning a save during a baseball game Friday, Sept. 26, 2025, in Anaheim, Calif.

Associated Press

Tigers hold a \$12 million option with a \$2 million buy-out.

A 38-year-old Jansen is a four-time All-Star who was NL Reliever of the Year in 2016 and 2017. He trails just Hall of Famers Mariano Rivera (652), Trevor Hoffman (601) and Lee Smith (478) in saves.

Jansen leads active players with 933 appearances, including 62 last season with the Los Angeles Angels.

He was 5-4 with a 2.59 ERA and had 29 saves in 30 chances in 2025 after signing a \$10 million, one-year deal with the Angels.

He had 25 or more saves in each of the last 13 non-shortened seasons. He had 40-plus saves for the fourth time in 2022 when he led the NL with 41 for Atlanta.

Jansen signed with the Dodgers as a catcher out of Curaçao at the age of 17 in 2004, became a pitcher in 2009 and was with the franchise from 2010-21. He went on to play with the Braves for one season, in Boston for two years and with the Angels in 2025.

The 6-foot-5, 265-pound Jansen helped teams advance to the postseason 10 times, including in 2020 with the World Series champion Dodgers.

Detroit has been in the playoffs the last two years and is making moves to improve its chances of returning to the postseason.

What the franchise chooses to do with two-time AL Cy Young Award winner Tarik Skubal this offseason will be closely watched.

"The reason that all of this is such a big topic is because we have the best pitcher in baseball," Tigers manager A.J. Hinch said recently. "And I love that he's a Tiger."

The 29-year-old Skubal is entering his final year of club control by the Tigers, who last won a World Series in 1984.

Harris said he was not interested in discussing hypothetical options with Skubal on a call to discuss the addition of Jansen. □



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